1.

Commission No. 1383a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

July 17, 1964
Dallas, Texas

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Kennedy, John F. 3

By letter dated July 7, 1964, the President's Commission requested additional investigation concerning an alleged mark on the curb in the vicinity of the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD), Dallas, Texas, which had been photographed by James Underwood, a Newsman with KRLD-TV, Dallas, Texas. In connection with this request, the President's Commission letter made available a photograph of the curb made by Tom Dillard of "The Dallas Morning News" which had been forwarded to the President's Commission by Martha Joe Stroud, Assistant United States Attorney, Dallas, Texas.

On July 15, 1964, James Underwood, residence, 9751 Parkford Drive, Dallas, Texas, a Newsman for KRLD-TV, Dallas, was shown two photographs. One of these photographs is of a mark on the curb on the south side of Main Street near the triple underpass and shows a hand shielding the light from this mark. The second photograph was taken looking across Main Street and up Elm Street toward the TSBD. Mr. Underwood identified these photographs as frames taken from a 16 mm movie film, which film was taken by him on the morning of November 23, 1963. Mr. Underwood advised he had been told by a Deputy Sheriff, whose name he could not recall, that there was a mark on the curb on the south side of Main Street near the underpass, which was possibly made by a ricocheting bullet. The photograph of the hand shielding the mark on the curb was made by Underwood squatting down in the gutter to get a close-up view of the mark, and the picture of the TSBD was taken by placing the handle attached to the underneath side of Underwood's movie camera on the curb near the mark and pointing the camera back toward the TSBD, in order to get a low-level shot.

Mr. Underwood repeated what he had told Federal Bureau of Investigation Agents on June 11, 1964, that he could not be positive the mark was made by a ricocheting bullet, but appeared to him that it could have been, based on knowledge acquired by him while in the military service. He further stated it was definitely a mark on the curb and not a nick in the curb. He repeated that the concrete was not broken and that the mark appeared to have possibly been made recently, but he could not judge how much time had passed since the mark was made when he took the photographs of it.

Mr. Underwood stated that prior to taking the photographs he met Tom Dillard, a Photographer for "The Dallas Morning News," near the entrance to the Dallas County Jail, and had told Dillard about the information he had received from the Deputy Sheriff about the mark on the curb. Dillard indicated he would possibly also take a still photograph of this mark.

On July 15, 1964, Tom C. Dillard, residence, 7022 Merrilee Lane, Dallas, Texas, a Photographer for "The Dallas Morning News," advised that on the morning of November 23, 1963, while at the Dallas County Jail entrance, he had received information from James Underwood, a Newsman for KRLD-TV, to the effect there was a mark on the curb on the south side of Main Street near the triple underpass. Underwood had told Dillard that the mark was possibly made by a bullet. Later during the afternoon of November 23, 1963, Dillard, using a Mamiyaflex 120 Camera, took a picture of a mark on the curb on the south side of Main Street about twenty feet east of the triple underpass. Dillard stated he was of the opinion the mark very possibly could have been made by a ricocheting bullet and that it had been recently made.

Mr. Dillard was shown a photograph of a mark on the curb with a hand holding a pencil pointing toward the mark. He identified this photograph as a copy of the one he had taken on the afternoon of November 23, 1963.

Mr. Dillard stated he definitely recalls it was a mark on the curb rather than a nick in the curb and the concrete was not broken or chipped.

On July 15, 1964, two Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, accompanied by Tom C. Dillard, a Photographer for "The Dallas Morning News," and James Underwood, a Newsman for KRLD-TV, went to the area approximately twenty feet east of the triple underpass and on the south side of Main Street. Through the use of the same camera used by Mr. Underwood on November 23, 1963, and by aligning three reference points in a photograph of the TSBD taken by Mr. Underwood on November 23, 1963, from this same area, it was ascertained the mark observed and photographed by Mr. Underwood and Mr. Dillard had been at a point on the curb twenty-one feet and eleven and one-half inches east of a point where Main Street passes under the triple underpass. This same point where the mark had been observed by Mr. Underwood and Mr. Dillard was seventy-three feet and five inches west of the first lamp post on the south side of Main Street, which lamp post is the first one located east from the triple underpass on Main Street.

The area on the curb from this point for a distance of ten feet in either direction was carefully checked and it was ascertained there was no nick in the curb in the checked area, nor was any mark observed.

Reference points in the photograph taken by Mr. Underwood used to locate this point were a lamp post located in the right of the photograph, which appears to be midway between two buildings, a lamp post located on the north side of Elm Street, which is in line with the third row of windows from the southwest corner of the TSBD, and which face south, and a traffic sign located on the left side of the photograph, which is to the west of the TSBD.

It should be noted that no nick or break in the concrete was observed, in the area checked, nor was there any mark similar to the one in the photographs taken by Underwood and Dillard observed in the area checked either by the Special Agents, by Mr. Underwood, or by Mr. Dillard. It should be noted that, since this mark was observed on November 23, 1963, there have been numerous rains, which could have possibly washed away such a mark and also that the area is cleaned by a street cleaning machine about once a week, which would also wash away any such mark.